



Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana* in Vadodara

On 10 March 2020, on the occasion of the festival of Holi, we went to Timbi Lake, situated in Waghodia Tehsil of Vadodara for bird watching. We reached there a bit late. It was around 08:15 hrs in the morning. The sun had already risen and was shining bright. We were walking in the marshy area with scattered reeds and suddenly, a small bird foraging on the fringes of reeds caught our attention. Just by looking at it from a distance, made us sure that it was a crane (*Porzana* sp.). As the sunlight was in the opposite direction, we were not sure about the exact species. As soon as we went a little closer, we could easily identify it as the Spotted Crake (*Porzana porzana*). We took some photographs and confirmed the identification. The Spotted Crake is quite uncommon to rare in Vadodara area and this is an important record for Vadodara District.

Vikrant Vyas: Vadodara



Asian Pied Starling *Gracupica contra* near Surat

On 29 October 2020, I was passing on a road behind the L & T factory in Hazira, Surat. There, I saw a group of starlings perched on a *Prosopis juliflora*. After watching with binoculars, I found that two of the starlings were Asian Pied Starlings (*Gracupica contra*). I took some photographs and confirmed the identification. On 30 October 2020, I revisited the area and found one bird and on 31 October 2020, no bird was found. This species is uncommon in South Gujarat. I had not seen the Asian Pied Starling in this area before and was surprised to find this bird here.

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